

The murder of AMALASUNTHA
in Italy (regent for ATHALARIC)
was pretext for Justinian to
send BELISARIUS to reconquer
Italy.

Belisarius crushed the
Ostrogothic kingdom.

535

The Huns in the Gothic Kingdom

Assassination of AMALASUINTHA;
beginning of the war with
Constantinople.

535

1912 Dates J-BK

Palermo

Augustus established a Colony at
Palermo.

In 535, the Byzantines took it
from the Goths

535-555

1912 Dates J-BK

Ostrogoths
War with the Eastern Empire
King VITIGES was Corried Capture
of Constantinople

Belisarius is General with Eastern Empire
Justinian (emperor) offered the Italian
Crown by East Goths: Declines
Under TOTILA - reconquered large
part of Italy

Rome was captured by Belisarius,
It was taken a 2nd time by TOTILA

Early summer 535 & Fall of 535

Belisarius, who had put down the African revolt, received orders to resume the war immediately and to carry it into Italy. There he met EBRIAUD, Theodahad's son-in-law and commander of Rheguin-Reggio Calabria. The Gothic general surrendered immediately which is difficult to understand. Theoderenda's bond to her father was one of genuine love & affection. Her husband

EBRIMUD enjoyed Theodahad's full confidence and had been sent by him to the southern tip of Italy.

Belisarius marched unopposed as far as Naples where he met the 1st fierce resistance. After a tough struggle Naples fell, whereupon Belisarius made an example of the city. Theodahad marched out of Ravenna as for Rome

While the war was already in full swing, imperial diplomacy continued its activities both inside and outside of ~~the~~ Italy. In the name of Catholic solidarity, a delegation tried to mobilize the Franks against the Arian Goths.

Theodahad had just recently appeased the MEROVINGIAN King's indignation at the shameful death

of their beloved cousin with a wergild
of 50,000 solidi. To incite the Franks to
an invasion of Italy under these circumstances
represents a blatant blunder of imperial
diplomacy & reveals a cynical readiness
to allow the peninsula to become a barbarian
battle ground to destroy the Gothic realm.
At the same time Theodahad was haggling
with PETRUS PATRICIUS about conditions
under which the Amal would be allowed
to remain king.

535

1912 Dates J-BK

533-535

John II was 56th Pontiff
He succeeded Boniface II

Dec. 31, 535

At the end of his consulship, Belisarius entered Syracuse in triumph, showering gold coins on the inhabitants. Justinian's general had won a fine victory.

June 535

The ships of Belisarius were approaching Sicilian Catania.

The Roman militias of Sicily opened the gates of their cities, so even Syracuse, the seat of the Gothic comes, surrendered without a fight. Only the garrison of Palermo held out. The harbor, itself, was unprotected. This allowed Belisarius' fleet to sail in and drop anchor. The ships' dinghies were then manned with

archers and hoisted up the masts, soon a
shower of arrows rained down upon the Gallic
garrison, forcing it to surrender

535

At first Justinian let loose the wild MUNDO. As magister militum of Illyricum he opened the offensive in Dalmatia. Without encountering much opposition, by late 535 he had occupied the province along with its Capital city of Salona. Belisarius, a specialist for combined naval-land operations, was sent in October to establish a 2nd front. He was given the task of attacking Sicily with

a small elite force of about 9000 men.
Belisarius's naval mission was declared
a reinforcement for the Carthaginian garrison.

After the death of Theodoric in Italy, chaos followed. Belisarius with a small force landed in Sicily. The Goths were said to have 100,000 fighting men in the country but the entire Italian population was on the side of Belisarius. The Goths were paralyzed by the inaction of their king THEODARIC

535

AMALASWINTHA murdered
by THEODAHAD.

Belisarius is in Sicily

535

When the murder of the Gothic Queen AMALA SUNITA became known in the spring of 535, letters from Theodahad and his wife ~~THE~~ GODELIVA to the emperor ~~and~~ empress were of any use. The violent death of AMALA SUNITA constituted a CASUS BELLI and meant the declaration of a war that could only end with unconditional surrender while Italy was in discord, while Romans

and Galls were turning against the new
regime and the Gothic Army was needed
more for the preservation of internal peace
than for defense against an external
attack. Justinian launched the war of
reconquest on land and sea.

535/536

The Byzantine - Ostrogothic war broke out. The Franks presented their "modest" demands: they were being courted by the emperor and an appeal had been made to their sense of Catholic solidarity, but they offered to remain neutral if Ravenna would pay in gold & land

535

Justinian's great war of reconquest
commenced in 535

535-560

1912 Dates J-BK

Belisarius was General
East Empire

535-

Belserius subdud Society